

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 4, 10, 12A, 12B, 19, 20, and 21. These sheets, which include Figures 3 and 4; 10; 11, 12A, and 12B; 19; 20; and 21, replace the original sheets including Figures 3 and 4; 10; 11, 12A, and 12B; 19; 20; and 21, respectively.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (6 sheets)

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 27-45 are pending in the present application. Claims 27, 35, 42, and 45 are amended and Claims 1-26 are canceled without prejudice by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to; the specification was objected to; Claim 45 was objected to; and Claims 27-45 were indicated as allowable.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In view of this indication, the drawings, the specification, and the Abstract have been amended to overcome the outstanding objections.

More specifically, Figures 4, 10, 12A, 12B, 19, 20, and 21 have been amended to show reference signs different from each other, the Abstract has been amended to not exceed 150 words, and the specification has been amended to reflect the changes to the drawings and the changes suggested in the outstanding Office Action at page 5, numbered paragraph 6. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested the objections to the drawings and the specification be withdrawn.

Regarding the objection to Claim 45, Applicants note that Claim 45 is directed to a developing device that is part of an image forming apparatus and is not directed to a process cartridge as suggested by the outstanding Office Action. The "process cartridge" noted in the outstanding Office Action is "removably mounted to a body of an image forming apparatus" and the cartridge does not include the image carrier, charger, developing device, etc. as recited by Claim 45. Thus, it is believed that pending Claim 45 is in order. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this objections be withdrawn.

Claims 27, 35, 42, and 45 have been amended to better conform with standard U.S. claim drafting practice without changing the scope of the claims or adding new matter.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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